

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-10

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY AIRCRAFT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 174252 TOSEC 080003

FOR ASST SECRETARY MOOSE

FOLLOWING REPEAT KINSHASA 7165 ACTION STATE INFO BRUSSELS PARIS
LONDON BONN KHARTOUM LUSAKA RABAT BRAZZAVILLE NEW YORK BUKAVU
LUBUMBASHI JULY 11.

QUOTE O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 7165

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, SHUM, CG

SUBJECT: MOBUTU DECLARES AMNESTY FOR POLITICAL PRISONERS

REF: A) KINSHASA 6689; B) 75 KINSHASA 5981

1. ZAIRIAN RADIO ANNOUNCED JULY 10 THAT PRESIDENT MOBUTU HAD INFORMED THE POLITICAL BUREAU OF HIS INTENTION TO RESPOND FAVORABLY TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL'S REQUEST (REF A) THAT THE AMNESTY RECENTLY GRANTED TO ZAIRIAN REFUGEES BE BROADENED TO ENCOMPASS THOSE IMPRISONED IN ZAIRE FOR THREATENING INTERNAL SECURITY. A LAW SPECIFYING THE EXACT SCOPE OF THE INTERNAL AMNESTY IS EXPECTED TO BE PROMULGATED SHORTLY BY MOBUTU. SUBSEQUENT PRESS COMMENTARY HAS STATED THAT "CERTAIN EXCEPTIONS" ASIDE, ZAIRE

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WILL NO LONGER HAVE ANY POLITICAL PRISONERS ONCE THE LAW IS APPLIED.

2. THE RADIO MENTIONED FIVE NAMES "AMONG THOSE WHO WILL BENEFIT FROM PRESIDENTIAL CLEMENCY:" FORMER FORMIN NGUZA KARL I BOND, PALUKU, LOANGO (LWANGO), KANYERE AND MUTAKA WA DILOMBA. PALUKA, LOANGO, AND KANYERE (REF B) WERE CONVICTED AS CIVILIAN CONSPIRATORS IN THE 1975 "COUP MONTE ET MANQUE." MUTAKA WAS

ACTIVE IN KATANGAN SECESSIONIST POLITICS AND EARNED A REPUTATION AS A CORRUPT, BUMBLING HACK. OUR FIELDS DO NOT INDICATE WHY OR WHEN HE WAS IMPRISONED.

3. COMMENT: IN ANNOUNCING THE IMMINENT RELEASE OF MOST POLITICAL PRISONERS, MOBUTU HAS TAKEN A SIGNIFICANT STEP TOWARD NATIONAL RECONCILIATION. WHILE IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN, INTERNAL AMNESTY COULD ALSO ENCOURAGE ZAIRIAN REFUGEES IN ANGOLA TO BEGIN RETURNING TO ZAIRE, THEREBY IMPROVING PROSPECTS FOR A REDUCTION IN TENSIONS ALONG SHABA'S BORDER WITH ANGOLA. AK CUTLER UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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